

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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October 16, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: *Marvin J. Southard*
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health *(SK)*

Jon W. Fullinwider
Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) – TRANSACTION AND CODE SET COMPLIANCE BY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

The effective date for compliance to the HIPAA Transaction and Code Set (TCS) Rules is today, October 16, 2003. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) has been managing a project that will implement major changes to their core management information system to meet the HIPAA TCS requirements. This is to advise you that DMH will not be processing transactions in HIPAA compliant formats until Monday, October 20, 2003 due to delays in completing data conversion processing. The processing of Pharmacy related transactions will be delayed until November 1, 2003.

Consistent with the actions taken by the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DMH has notified its providers that they are implementing their "contingency plan" for HIPAA TCS during the interim period. The contingency plan allows providers to continue to use tradition transactions during the contingency period. As indicated in the Chief Information Officer's (CIO) October 9, 2003 HIPAA Status Report, CMS implemented their contingency plan to minimize the impact on providers that were in varied states of readiness.

We will continue to monitor DMH's progress in reaching full implementation of their new system and compliance with the HIPAA transactions. The CIO will provide a more complete update with the next HIPAA Status Report that is due at the end of this month.

MJS:JWF
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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Richard Mason, County Counsel
Mary Wawro, County Counsel